



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
Ingham et al.

Serial No: 08/954,771

Filed: October 20, 1997

For: Vertebrate Embryonic Pattern-  
Inducing Proteins and Uses Related  
Thereto

Attorney Docket No. HMSU-P1-000

Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: M. Brannock

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May 28, 2002  
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Brent LaFarge

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Sir:

This amendment is being filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action, mailed March 26, 2002, in connection with the above application. Please enter the following amendments:

**In the claims:**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 132.

123. (**Amended**) A method for promoting one or more of growth, differentiation, and survival of neuronal cells, comprising contacting said cells with an amount of a *hedgehog* polypeptide at least 80% identical to at least one sequence selected from SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ